

New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

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Click here to view CP&P Form <u>26-89</u>.

PURPOSE AND USE

In coordination with the Concurrent Planning case practice model, this tool is designed to assist the Worker and Supervisor to form a reasonable hypothesis about the likelihood of reunification, help determine services needed, and whether a concurrent planning placement is appropriate, based on a family assessment.

The Guide identifies those indicators suggesting the likelihood of early reunification as well as those indicators suggesting a poor prognosis and the need for a concurrent planning placement. The likelihood of reunification decreases as the number of poor prognosis indicators increase, but it is important to remember that the prognosis indicators are not absolute predictors of the outcomes. The Guide seeks to balance a child's need for permanency with recognition that the parents have the capacity for growth and change, and that reunification efforts continue in earnest.

The Guide is ideal for team decision-making, as well as supervisory conferences. It is intended for use as an internal tool; it is not intended to be shared with family members or resources due to the confidential information contained on it.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FORM

The Guide is completed within 30 days of placement.

Section I, on the left side of the chart, lists early reunification indicators, related to parent-child relationships, parental history and functioning, and support systems. Section II, on the right side of the chart, lists indicators of a poor prognosis for reunification, including factors related to child abuse and/or neglect, ambivalence factors, and parental history and functioning.

Place a check mark in each box that applies to the subject family. The Worker and Supervisor review the check marks together to determine whether the case is appropriate for a concurrent planning placement.

If the case is initially determined NOT to be appropriate for a concurrent planning placement, periodic reexamination of the Concurrent Planning Guide takes place throughout the life of a case. In these cases, complete the Concurrent Planning Guide when:

- More information is available
- Circumstances change
- There appears to be a poor prognosis for reunification.

DISTRIBUTION

Original - Case Record